

Frenchtown Shade Tree Commission  
Regular Meeting  
April 10, 2012

Chairman Robert Haver called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm and stated that all the requirements of the Open Public Meeting Law have been met.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Robert Haver  
Travis Boyd  
Geoff Stanley  
William Sullivan

Absent: John Wagner

Robert Haver noted that John Wagner is on vacation.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Town wide tree inventory & assessment**

William Sullivan noted that he and Geoff Stanley have made a commitment to do this on the first and third Mondays of the month until it is done and at the same time will locate areas where trees need to be planted, note which trees need maintenance. This will be done street by street.

**Tree replacement recommendations for FES**

Robert Haver stated that the Frenchtown Elementary School will not be replacing any of the fallen trees outside, and no longer need the STC's guidance for recommendations to replace the trees that came down. Instead they will be plantings trees every other year for Arbor Day, and that since the STC did one last year, we will do one in 2013. We will still do the presentation to the second grade class and hand out seedlings. Geoffrey Stanley noted that he knows of a Cub Scout group that would love to plant seedlings. Robert Haver stated that he will likely have extras seedlings, and he will leave the box out at the end of the day and who ever wants one can take one.

**NJDEP Annual Report – Completed**

Robert Haver noted that the Annual Report has been done and he will take that off the agenda.

**Park cleanup, tree maintenance**

Robert Haver noted that he met with Cathy Leach at the park and tried to coordinate something with the fire department and that time was of the essence and they could not accommodate the schedule. There are a lot of dead branches and with the leaf coming on the trees are moving a lot and stuff is falling. They received quotes to do the trimming and perhaps we can use some of our budget. Geoffrey Stanley stated that Tom Karkas thought he was in on this. William Sullivan added that as to cabling of the trees, he would only do it around structures. Robert Haver noted that Bartlet is the one the parks committee wants to go with. We do not necessarily have to pay for it. William Sullivan stated that the parks committee has not discussed it so he does not know how the town would pay for it. C&M Landscaping quotes \$8,400.00, Tamke quoted \$6,960.00 and Bartlet came in at \$2,800.00 for pruning seven silver maples, and one separate quote for pruning and cabling the same for just under \$4,000.00. This quote includes hauling it away. Geoffrey Stanley stated that we

have an agreement with Tom Karkas and part of the agreement was that he would be considered for this work in the park. We can not go and do this. William Sullivan stated that he agrees with Geoff and added that it has not gone through the parks committee. The Council does not have the money. Robert Haver stated that he will email Cathy Leach that the Shade Tree Commission would like an apples to apples comparative quote from Tom Karkas for the job, if the Shade Tree Commission is going to contribute money to the project. Robert Haver stated that he would like the Shade Tree Commission to consider donating the rest of the grant money to the project. He would like to use those funds before someone takes it away. William Sullivan stated that we could have Tom Karkas go in and do 5 days of work at the park for the Shade Tree Commission because we have a daily rate. Robert Haver stated that he would like to have a tree professional make the park as safe as possible. William Sullivan commented that the park has not been done in years and the Borough approved money three years ago for it and it never happened. He tried to get money last year for it. It can easily get done by Karkas. Robert Haver noted that Mike Reino got the quotes. He will contact Cathy Leach to let her know that we would like to see a quote from Tom Karkas. Geoff Stanley stated that we have an agreement with Tom Karkas and if we are going to help pay for it, he should be able to quote it. He has been good to the Shade Tree Commission and he should be considered. Robert Haver stated that his interest was in using STC funds on the trees so that the parks committee would be free to use their funds on fixing up the park. He noted that there is \$2,395.00 left in the Shade Tree Commission's grant fund. William Sullivan stated that the removal costs are high. Robert Haver noted that he will have Mike Reino call Tom Karkas. William Sullivan stated that it should not be Mike Reino involved in that when it is the parks committee. Geoff Stanley stated that he will contact Tom Karkas. Robert Haver commented that he will let Cathy Leach know about the additional quote.

### **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

On motion by William Sullivan, seconded by Geoffrey Stanley and carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote, the Meeting minutes of March 13, 2012 were approved by favorable voice vote.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **2012 Arbor Day event (Friday, April 27, 2012)**

Robert Haver noted that the new Tree City Arbor day hat goes to the new commission member (Bill Sullivan) this year. Robert Haver noted that the Arbor Day celebration will be on Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm at the school. We will meet out front 15 minutes in advance. It will be a presentation like last year except we will not go outside. He will put some dirt in a pot and John Wagner can show them how to plant a tree. Afterwards STC members will hand the seedlings out to the students.

#### **Prioritized list of tree maintenance for 2012**

Robert Haver noted that this was previously discussed in the meeting and that going forward we'll keep this under old business. He would like to document what has been done in the last two or three years. They will also include the tree planting and stump removal locations on the map or in the iTree software.

#### **Stump removal list for 2012**

Robert Haver reported that we have to identify where the stumps are. He knows where the ones are for the last two years. William Sullivan stated that when mapping everything else,

he can map the stumps as well and places to put new trees. It will be done as part of the inventory.

**CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Robert Haver gave everyone a Tree City USA sticker, and noted that he will pass the “9 year” sticker along to be placed on the sign. William Sullivan noted that we have a Tree City USA sign that is being refurbished.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Meeting was adjourned by unanimous favorable voice vote at 6:00 p.m. on motion by William Sullivan and seconded by Travis Boyd.

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Robert E. Haver II, Chairman  
Shade Tree Commission